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Black River Falls, Wis.  
Historical sketch.



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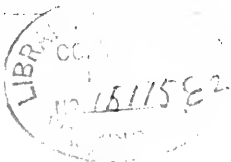
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EDITED BY

*MRS. BELLA FRENCH.*

BLACK RIVER FALLS, WIS.



LA CROSSE, WIS.

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**CONTENTS.**

PA

View of Black River Falls, Wisconsin, Engraving.....	
Black River Falls, Historical Sketch.....	C. R. Johnson,
Black River Falls, Business Directory.....	
Life in a Country Printing Office.....	
The Friendship that could not Die, a poem.....	
Gems of Thought.....	
The Great Debating Society, illustrated.....	

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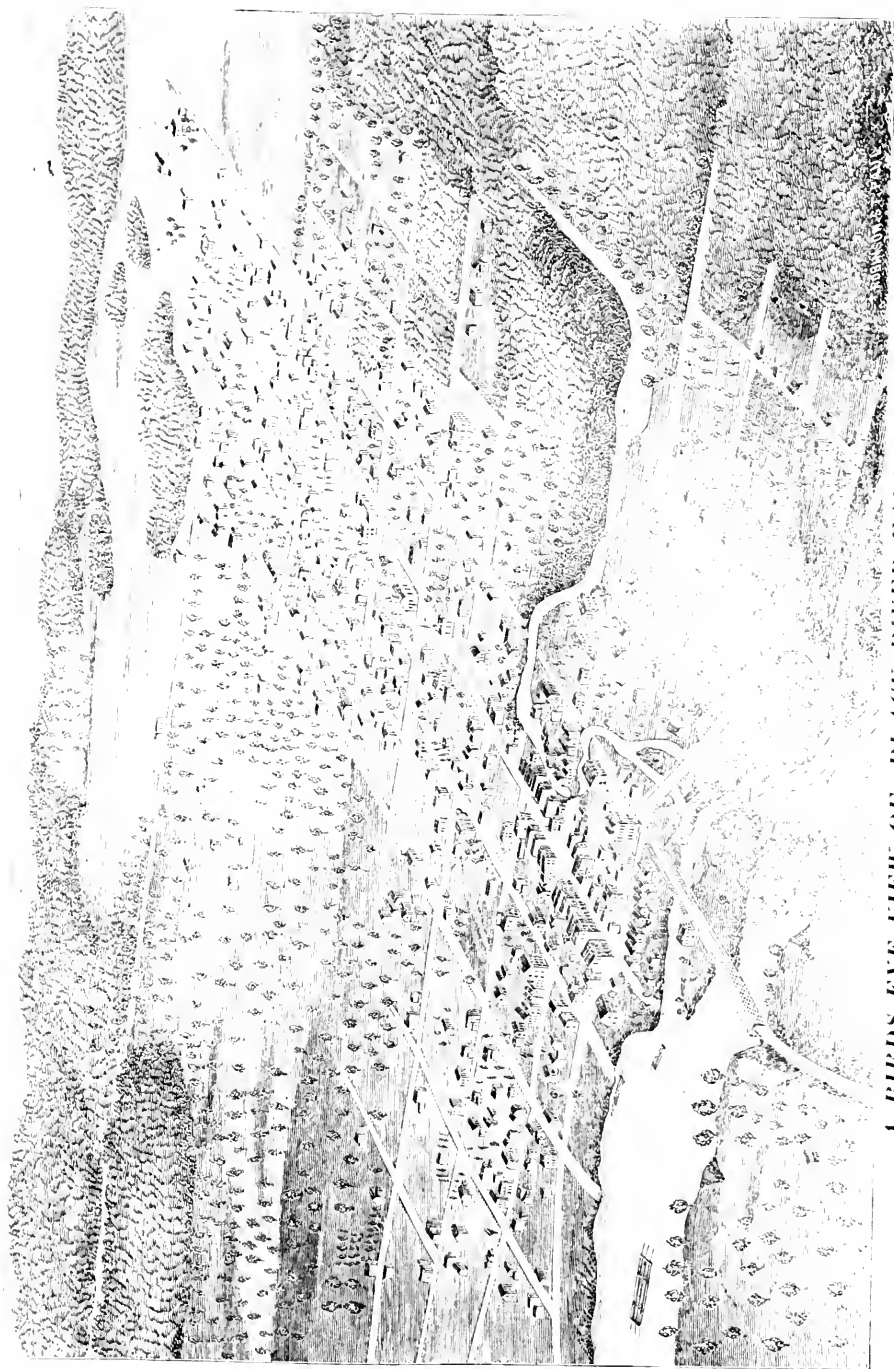
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A BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF BLACK RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN.



# Black River Falls, Wisconsin.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH.

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THE earliest account we have of white settlements on Black River, becomes almost traditionary when details are sought after. Enough is known, however, to assert safely that sometime during the years 1818 or 1819, an expedition was fitted out at Prairie du Chien, under the direction of one Rolette, then a prominent trader at that point, which succeeded in reaching the present site of the village of Black River Falls, and erecting a small saw mill on Town Creek, about seventy-five yards in the rear of the restaurant building of R. D. Squires.

Whether the expeditionists proposed to locate permanently at the "Falls" cannot be ascertained, but whatever their intentions may have been, they were prematurely frustrated by the Winnebago Indians, who burned the mill before it was fairly in operation, and drove the lumbermen off down the river.

Here it might be proper to state, that the territory bordering on and contiguous to Black River, then belonged to the Indians, who did not cede away their right to it until 1838. The Winnebagoes claimed to own the land from the east fork of Black River, east to the Wisconsin River, west to Beef Slough upon the Mississippi River; thence south to the mouth of the Wisconsin River. On the east side of the last named river, were located the Menominee Indians, with whom the Winnebagoes intermarried and fraternized generally. North of the territory claimed by the Winnebagoes, were the Chippewas, occupying a vast extent of country, bounded on the west by the Mississippi River, and by Lake Superior on the north.

From the time that Rolette's expeditionists were driven off the river, there was no attempt to effect a settlement at the "Falls," until late

in the spring of 1839, (the Indians having the year before ceded to the Government all the lands on Black River claimed by them,) when an expedition was organized at Prairie du Chien for a permanent settlement and the improvement of the water-power at Black River Falls, by Robert and Andrew Wood, who had in their employ Jacob Spaulding, millwright; Joseph and Alonzo Stickney, Hiram Yeatman, Isaac Van Nostrand, John Anglemiller, Robert Sawyer, Joel Lemon and thirteen others.

The party, under the leadership of the Wood Brothers, reached La Crosse (then a naked prairie, except as the Indians temporarily set up their wigwams there,) by steamboat, by which, in those days, not more than two trips were made during the running season, from St. Louis to forts along the river, and to Fort Snelling, just above the present site of the city of St. Paul, in Minnesota.

At La Crosse prairie, the party stopped long enough to construct a flat-bottomed craft, called a keel-boat, being sixty feet in length and five in width, on which the freight was to be transported up the Black River. Perhaps a description of the manner in which such boats are propelled might be interesting, it now being a question of the past, but new to many that may read this sketch. Upon each gunwale of the boat was fixed a running board (so called) wide enough for a man to walk upon comfortably, without endangering his balance, if sober; the boat, being loaded with perhaps ten tons of freight, was headed up Black River from La Crosse prairie, with a crew of from seven to nine men. One steered, while the others, equally divided, placed themselves on the running board, facing the stern of the boat, each having a straight, smooth pole, from ten to fifteen feet in length, the butt end resting on the bed of the river, while the other end found a lodgment firmly against the shoulder; the whole force and weight of the man being exerted upon it, as he walked the running board in a stooping position, from bow to stern; when the stern was gained the man came to a right about, and reaching the bow, the poles were again set, and the power in question again exerted. About twenty miles per day was good progress up against the current. For years after the first settlement of the country, the supplies for the settlers were nearly all brought up the Black River upon that class of boats; and to be a good hand with a boat pole was no slight recommendation, as it required a full grown and well developed man to endure the kind of work above described for four successive days, that being about the average time required to make a trip from La Crosse Prairie to Black

River Falls; for the shoulder against which the end of the pole was pressed and the back of the uninitiated suffered fearfully. Judge Price used to claim that he weighed five hundred pounds on the end of the pole, and in the usually modest style of keel-boat days, asserted that he could out-pole any living "he," and could make a boat-trip to the "Prairie" and back, quicker than any man on Black River; and perhaps the assertion was nearly true.

But without digressing further, the party having completed and loaded their boat, started up Black River, arriving at the "Falls" about the first day of August, after a wearisome trip of seven days from the mouth of the river. Twenty-eight head of cattle arrived at the same time, having been driven overland through the wilderness, from Illinois. No one of the small party thus landing at the "Falls" probably surmised that it was to form a nucleus around which would be in a comparatively few years gathered the ten thousand people now composing the population of Jackson County, or that any individual of that party would survive to see erected magnificent blocks of brick buildings for business purposes, or a thirty thousand dollar school-house, or a half dozen church buildings, or would hear the shrill whistle of the locomotive, that great harbinger of business and progress, almost within a stone's throw of the wild spot they had reached. But they knew positively that they were over one hundred miles from any other white settlement; that the vast country was around them, that they were surrounded by teacherous natives on every side, who would look upon them with jealous eyes, as intruders upon their choicest hunting grounds; that they were away beyond the verge of civilization, and that the life before them was one of toil, hardship and privation. Brave men were they, and such as they have opened up the wilderness of thirty-five years ago, so that to-day it blossoms as the rose, and its inhabitants are as highly favored with social, educational and religious advantages, as are the denizens of the original thirteen states.

Our adventurers, immediately on their arrival, commenced and soon after completed a double log cabin, located on the south bank of Town Creek, north, and a little east of the present site of Spaulding Block, on Water street. That done, the party commenced getting out timber for the frame of a small saw mill, which was erected the following spring, on Town Creek, very near the point where the bridge now spans it. About that time, Spaulding, Andrew Wood, Joseph Stickney and Hiram Yeatman started down the river in a canoe, and upon arriving at Prairie du Chien, Stickney and Yeatman went ashore

and did not return to the "Falls" for some years. Spaulding and Wood, however, kept on down the river to Warsaw, Illinois, and there purchased the necessary iron and machinery for their proposed mill at the "Falls."

From thence, Wood returned to his old home at Quincy, Illinois, to remain until the following spring. Spaulding in charge of the material, was fortunate enough to get it conveyed by the only steamboat that traveled the upper Mississippi, on its second and last trip for the season, to and landed at, Prairie du Chien. He then hastened back to the "Falls," for the boat herein before described, with a crew to transport the machinery and supplies he had purchased. But upon reaching there, he learned that a party of Indians, that had been hunting in the neighborhood, having been successful in securing a large quantity of game, had, before his arrival, taken the boat, which at the time was tied up some distance below the Falls, without license, and having loaded it with a large number of elk, bear and deer carcasses, started with it down the river. Spaulding gave chase, and succeeded in finding his boat, minus Indians, at a point a short distance this side of Decorah's Village, and as soon as possible he got together a crew, and started down after his goods. Reaching Prairie du Chien, he took them aboard in a hurry, as winter was fast approaching, and returning, he reached Winneshiek, now in Vernon County, where his boat was frozen in hard and fast. Finding that winter was upon him in earnest, he, with the crew started on foot, by the way of the river, to the Falls, a distance of one hundred and forty miles. Arriving safely about the first of January, 1840, he immediately set at work preparing teams for a trip to the boat. Fifteen of what were called in those days "moose sleds" were hastily constructed, calculated for a single ox as a team, having thills tied to the single yoke. It was found that a team of that description would haul fifteen hundred pounds of freight on the ice. Everything being in readiness, Spaulding, with his "moose train," of fifteen oxen started down the ice for Winneshiek, arriving there about the middle of January, and, re-shipping his goods from the boat, he started back, he himself acting pilot on the ice ahead of the teams, as there was very peculiar ice that winter, defective and sound so joined on the surface that it took experienced eyes to distinguish one class from the other. The most careful supervision did not save men and teams from involuntary cold baths in Mississippi River water. The party, however, arrived at the Falls without loss, except now and then a man

lost his temper, as he unwittingly slumped through the ice into the river water, with the thermometer at thirty degrees below zero. It is said that some very good men of that party swore like troopers at their mishaps in the line of accidents in the character mentioned.

The claim that the Woods made upon their arrival at the Falls was not run out with a compass, but it appeared that they understood it to include the water power at that point, and all the land adjoining on either side of the river.

Shortly after the arrival of Spaulding and his moose train from below, the Indian chief Menominee, with a party of thirty or forty braves, arrived at the Falls, with the expressed intention of forcing the whites to evacuate the country, supposing that they were not advised of a late treaty whereby the Indians had ceded to the government all their right to it.

The Indians remained several days, living off the whites, in the meantime making some purchases, but finally demanded peremptorily that Spaulding and his men should leave the river, peaceably, if he would, but declared that they must go. If the chief and his braves had at the time been better and more intimately acquainted with the man they had undertaken to bluff, they would have known that he never moved very fast in a direction he disliked to travel; but it being their first introduction, they imagined their man considerably frightened. Spaulding, however, had made up his mind to stay, and that instead of the whites leaving, the Indians should "git up and git," and he so managed as to get all the Indians into one part of his double log cabin; then he had his seventeen men by ones and twos, get into the other where all their arms were, and soon every white man was armed and ready for a fight. The Indians, in the meantime, were in blissful ignorance of the "good time coming," and supposing "everything to be lovely," were patiently waiting for Spaulding's reply to their ultimatum. It came in the shape of Spaulding with seventeen rifles at his back, who in a moment had them surrounded and at his mercy. Calling them out, he ordered them to leave, and to be quick about it, too, never to return on a similar errand; and they left. Thenceforward Menominee was, until his death, a fast friend of Spaulding, probably having at their first introduction discovered a few obstinate traits in his character that he loved.

Spaulding and the men left in his charge, in the meantime continued getting out timber for the mill frame, and for other purposes, until about the last of February, when their supplies ran out, and

Robert Wood and all the men left for the lower country, leaving Spaulding alone, the only white man on the river at the time; but one who was determined that the Wood's claim should not be abandoned for a day! With his rifle, he supplied himself with meat, upon which he dieted exclusively until the twenty-first of the following March. About this time, the river having opened, the Woods returned with a party of eight men, including among them William Paulley, who subsequently acquired considerable notoriety by killing Moses Clark, at Niellsville, in Clark County. After the arrival of the Woods party, the mill on Town Creek was speedily erected and in running order. Shortly after that the Woods concluded that Spaulding was one too many, and ejected him *vi et armis* (he having before that time acquired an interest in the claim at the Falls.) Seeing that there was too heavy a force for him to contend successfully against, he wended his way down to Prairie du Chien, where he procured legal process, and returned with the sheriff, who placed him in possession as joint tenant. Crawford County, at that date, embraced about all the northwestern part of the state.

During the autumn of 1840, Spaulding and the Woods commenced the erection of their second and larger mill in the present site of the extensive saw and flouring mills of D. J. Spaulding, Esq., and it was got in running order during the spring of 1841. By that time, it was discovered that Spaulding and the Wood Brothers could not do business together amicably, and their disagreements resulted in the brothers selling out to Spaulding all their interest at the Falls for four hundred thousand feet of lumber, payable in three installments at Quincy, Illinois, independent of an agreement on Spaulding's part to pay off the firm debts, then amounting to about five thousand dollars. The Woods then left the country, and were no more heard of on Black River, except in connection with subsequent attempts to regain the property thus transferred to Spaulding, of which mention will be made hereafter.

The year 1841 closed upon the settlers at the Falls without the occurrence of any noteworthy incidents. The mills in question were completed and in running order, Spaulding had commenced clearing up land for a farm, near the present residence of his son, D. J. Spaulding.

The country bordering on Black River was found to be full of wild game. Elk were found along the whole length of the Trempealeau Valley. The creeks were dammed by beaver at short intervals from source to mouth. It is not a wonder that the demoralized remnant of

the Winnebagoes are yet seen in our midst, disliking to leave the country of their birth, preferring rather to discard the breech-clout and blanket, and don the style of dress usually worn by white men, as well as effecting permanent settlements, and commencing to avail themselves of the advantages of civilized life.

During the year, a delegation of Mormons came up from Nauvoo, Illinois, in order to procure lumber for their temple, and to that end and purpose, they purchased a half interest in a saw mill some miles below the falls, intending to cut their logs above the falls and run them down to their mill. About the time that winter set in, Spaulding was advised that the Mormon Elder had revealed to his brethren that he should log off Spaulding's claim that winter, (it being on the east side of Black River, and below the present site of Campbell's mill site,) he claiming that the wilderness was the Lord's and the fulness thereof, and that no gentile claim would be respected by the saints. Spaulding at once concluded that the genuineness of the revelation should be thoroughly tested if the threatening attempt was made. He had not long to wait, for within a week the Mormon logging crew were on the way up to the claim, while Spaulding, advised of their movements, had fully made up his mind to butt against the revelation and try titles with the saints, got together about twenty of his men, well armed with carnal weapons, and started up after them, the distance being about eight miles. Halting his men before he reached the Mormon camp, he went ahead to see what the prospect was, and found the saints had been at work like beavers, having fallen about one hundred trees. Finding the Elder, Spaulding enquired of him whether he was aware that he was trespassing on another's claim. The Elder answered that it did not make any difference whether he was or not; that he should cut timber wherever he could find it; that he had located his camp, and he intended to log there that winter at all events. Spaulding being provoked at the tone adopted by the follower of the great Joseph, intimated pretty emphatically that he'd be d—d if he should cut another tree on that claim; and halloed for his men, who were soon upon the spot, completely surprising the crew of lumbering saints. "Now," says Spaulding, to the Elder, "I'll give you an hour to get out of this, and if you are not off in that time, there may not be more saints in Heaven; but there will be fewer on earth, I'm certain." The Mormons finding themselves at Spaulding's mercy, geared up their teams, and were off down the river within the allotted time, grumbling as they went that

such treatment was as bad as that received from the Missourians. As soon as the chief Mormon at their mill down the river heard the facts connected with the retreat of their loggers from Spaulding's claim, he grew exceedingly wroth, and vowed that he would force the gentiles to leave the river, and immediately dispatched a messenger to Nauvoo for sixty men and one hundred guns. Spaulding, in the meantime, being advised of such movement, and being satisfied that he could not muster sufficient force to meet the Mormons should they be reinforced, as expected, at once hastened down to Prairie du Chien to interview the commander of the United States troops, garrisoned at Fort Crawford, on the subject of the contemplated raid. The officer in command, after hearing Spaulding's statement, assured him that he should have all necessary assistance in event of trouble. But a friend of the Mormons being at Prairie du Chien at the time, learned that Spaulding had been promised the aid of United States troops in repelling the Mormon forces, and on his return home advised the saints to let the gentiles alone, as otherwise there would be a good show of having to meet a detachment of the regular army of the United States. Such news cooled off the warlike propensities of the saints to such extent that when the reinforcement of men and arms arrived, the men were put at work, and the arms and munitions of war were stored away until a more favorable opening occurred for their use. From that date, on during their stay on the river, the Mormons "wooded you as gently as any sucking dove," making no more threats of using force to accomplish their mission, but were in all respects peaceable, industrious and well disposed citizens.

During the fall of 1851, Spaulding moved his family to the Falls, from Prairie du Chien, his family at the time consisting of his wife and son, Dudley J., a lad of some six years. The same season, however, his family was increased by the advent of a daughter, Mary J. now the wife of one of our leading traders.

The year 1842 passed over the Falls settlement without any material change or improvement of a noteworthy character.

During the spring of 1843, Spaulding sold to the Mormons the Falls mill property, for twenty thousand dollars, payable mostly in lumber. The property in question, at the time, consisted of the small saw mill on Town Creek, and the larger one on the river, the latter completed except the running gears on one side; the log cabin, spoken of as the first building erected; a small one story frame boarding house, located near the present site of A. Wehinger's store building



on Water street; one other log cabin on what is now the northwest corner of Main and Water streets; a blacksmith shop on the present site of Patrick Roddy's place of business, on Water street, and including the claim to territory first made by the Wood brothers. The new occupants of the property were very devout in their way, had stated preaching regularly every Sabbath, and the attendance of the "latter day saints" on the "means of grace" was punctual to an extreme. Among their Sabbath congregations, were frequently to be seen outsiders, whose curiosity prompted their presence at the Mormon tabernacle. Old Paul Knight, the mill wright, who subsequently became well known to everybody living on Black River, had that summer, (1843) in his wanderings "up and down the earth" struck the river, and finding his business prospectively good, he concluded to make the Falls his headquarters; and one pleasant Sunday morning, being rather strongly under "spirituous influence," he found his way into the Mormon sanctuary, where Elder Lyman White was vigorously dispensing the gospel from the Mormon standpoint to the faithful, and unraveling the wondrous mysteries thereof, in a style so new and original as to speedily gain Paul's undivided attention, he in his then mellow condition, being peculiarly impressible, and open to conviction. The devout elder, in the course of his remarks, made the following: "that he would rather go to hell willingly, than be forced into heaven." The preacher's idea struck Paul forcibly, and he immediately burst out with "You would, would you?" As soon as the elder recovered from his astonishment at the unseemly interruption, he replied "that he most certainly would." "Bully for you, by G——d!" shouted Paul, endeavoring to rise to his feet in his excitement, but losing the perpendicular, he pitched forward head foremost among the multitude, completely overcome by his emotions, a striking example of the effect of new and startling theological ideas suddenly developed in men of Paul's sensitive nature and impulsive temperament. Such incidents may sound rough, profane, and perhaps vulgar, to the more refined taste of these modern days, but as a eracious chronicler of times when rough men were common, I cannot well omit one now and then; besides the recital of the above will at once bring out "old Paul" in review before the mind's eye of his old acquaintances who survive him, and who will remember him with all his eccentricities, virtues and failings; so I leave the question of propriety to future commentators.

On the seventh day of June, 1844, Joseph Smith, the founder of

Mormonism, was killed by a mob at Carthage, Illinois. Spaulding at the time was at Warsaw, eighteen miles from there, and was the first to inform the followers of Smith at the Falls of the violent death of their great leader and prophet. They were thunderstruck at the news, and some were loud in expressing their utter disbelief of the unwelcome tidings, claiming that he could not be killed by any bullet run by mortal hands; but conviction of the truth of the report gradually fastened itself in their minds. Then commenced preparations for their immediate departure. All business was stopped; laborers were called in, and the preliminaries for a speedy exodus was arranged. Spaulding at once, by request of the Mormons, took back and again became owner of the Falls property, while they rafted up what lumber they had on hand, and a few days later had bidden good bye to Black River as an organized community. But during the year they had been in possession of the Falls property, they had improved it by completely finishing the larger saw mill, erecting a commodious warehouse, and by putting up some half dozen comfortable dwelling houses.

During the summer of 1845, Levi S. Avery had a call to Black River, and like all other men receiving calls where there is a prospect of bettering their condition financially, he accepted it, and has, through good and evil report, remained ever since, and for some years past he has been permanently located at the Falls. A carpenter and joiner by trade, he has shoved the jack plane to considerable extent. He was head sawyer in several saw mills on the river, in early times when it was considered respectable to own one. He served as sheriff one term, and as county clerk two terms, and is now the proprietor of the principle furniture store in town.

Late that fall, Hon. W. T. Price, known in early times as "Bill," in later years as "Judge," moved in from the vicinity of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, bringing along (as he intended to locate permanently on the River) the entire amount of his worldly goods of every variety, which were appraised by disinterested people at the time of his arrival after a critical examination, at seventy-five cents, which amount included his wearing apparel and personal ornaments. Like all new comers in those days, he at once commenced lumbering, and to a greater or less extent has ever since been engaged in that business; but aside from that he practiced law successfully from 1854 to 1859, his firm, Johnston & Price, being the first law firm established on the River. Subsequent to that he has owned and sold stores of goods, has been an extensive stage-line proprietor, a railway president, and moreover

has been prominently identified with the interests and material progress of the Falls, since his advent. An ardent partizan in politics, he has several times represented his district in both branches of the state legislature, and while his religious views may not at all times have been strictly evangelical, his always liberal donations to the churches have almost convinced clergymen that it is barely possible that a man can be saved by works alone.

The same fall C. R. Johnston came up Black River as far as the "Douglass Mills," at North Bend, in the present town of Melrose, for the purpose of assisting in running a raft of lumber from there to Galena, Illinois.

To give a general idea of the character and variety of goods in most common use, the following is selected at random from the old account book of a trader at the Falls in 1843, which is now in the possession of Jacob Spaulding, Esq.:

1843	A. ANDERSON,										Dr.
Sept. 4	To Christletts put in watch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
"	" 1 pair shoes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	00
"	" 1 quart whisky	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
"	" cash paid S. Reeves	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	00
"	" 2 plugs of tobacco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
"	" 1 quart whis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Sept. 23	" 3 plugs tobacco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
"	" 1 quart of whis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
"	" 2 pints of whis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
"	" balance on settlement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	50
"	" 4 bottles whis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
"	" 4 pints whis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
"	" 1 plug tobacco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13

The wants of the people were few, but the reader will see at once that prominent among those wants were whisky and tobacco.

Without whisky it wasn't supposed that a child could be properly ushered into this world of care and trouble, or the body of a friend suitably planted in its last resting place. Friends used it at meeting, and took a drink at parting, with frequent drinks *ad interim*. The use of it commenced and consummated agreements. Games of cards were played; rifles were shot at marks; quoits were pitched and foot races were run for it. The flour might give out, and the pork barrel be found empty, without creating alarm, but let the whisky jug or barrel fail to "give down," then there was an uproar in the camp, only to be quieted by a new supply. There is a legend that a boat load of supplies, in early settlement days, consisted of about ten barrels of flour, five of pork and twenty-five of whisky. But it is probable that

the whisky of twenty-five or thirty years ago was a different and much safer drink than are most of the miserable compounds and concoctions now sold and used under the name.

After the logging season of the winter of 1846 was over, and after the completion of sundry jobs on the river, W. T. Price engaged himself to Jacob Spaulding as foreman and clerk, at a salary of three hundred dollars for the first year, and in that position remained for several years, ending with a salary at seven hundred dollars per annum.

That spring, C. R. Johnson returned to Black River, and located at the falls, where he has since constantly resided, except when absent in the Mexican war and the war of the rebellion. At that time the white women at the Falls can easily be enumerated, and were as follows: Mrs. Jacob Spaulding, Mrs. Hiram Yeatman, Mrs. Joseph Stickney, Mrs. Joseph Clancey and Mrs. Henry Elmer, the latter of German birth. She at the time was chief cook at the boarding house, but is now the wife of Frank Fate. Mrs. Elmer, or "Barbara," as she was more familiarly called in those days, cooked the rations for about thirty men employed by Spaulding that season, besides providing for all chance comers, and there were many of them; but then she had no "knick knacks" to conjure up to tickle or sweeten the palates of epicurians. Breakfast was made up of good, hard, flour bread, and of chunks of salt pork fried in slices, averaging an inch in thickness. Dinner brought a change to boiled pork, while supper was the same as breakfast. The diet named was frequently enriched by a plate of bean soup at dinner. Venison also sometimes afforded a change: but pork and bread was the staple diet, and it was heartily relished by the hardy men who ate because they were hungry. The boarding house in question was the only public house at the Falls, at that time being a rough framed building, about 18x20, one story, with a tolerable high roof, under which upon a double loose floor there generally slept of a night from thirty to forty men, who were, for want of room, obliged to adopt the "spoon fashion" in composing themselves for a night's rest.

During the summer an itinerant preacher, professing to be of the Baptist persuasion, named Snow, sometimes held forth to such audiences as would gather to hear him. He did not profess to be college "edicated," and took some pride in the fact that he had no "larnin" whatever, being utterly unable to read. His meetings at first attracted some little attention, from the fact that his wife read the scripture lessons and hymns, while he expounded the word. He

insisted that the people around him did not search the scriptures to the extent they ought, and that their daily walk and conversation was a long way outside the divine requirements. He was nearly correct in that. After a while, however, the people found him to be a most unconscionable liar, and his usefulness as a minister considerably impaired thereby. He left the country the following year, went to Iowa, and there being found with a halter in his hand and a horse that did not belong to him at the further end of it, he was sent to the penitentiary for a term of years.

During the summer of 1846, Spaulding commenced the erection of the "Shanghai house," which was completed late in the fall, and ready to be opened for public accommodation. It was the most prominent building on the river, at the time, having a frontage of some sixty feet, on Water street, a depth of some thirty-six feet, and being two stories high, finished up with dressed lumber inside and out. It was regarded as a master-piece in design and finish. Its distinguished name was not affixed to it by the proprietor, Spaulding, but was originated by others, some time after its completion, and who so named it on the same principle that they would have named a man "Shanghai" who dressed better than his neighbors; for the Falls people were essentially democratic in their theory and practice, and frowned upon any attempt to improve the appearance of shoe leather with polish blacking, or wearing a silk hat when the neighbors all wore wool; and the man that had the hardihood to appear publicly in broadcloth while others wore suits of buckskin, heard comments upon his appearance more emphatic than commendatory. Times have changed since then, when, as a general thing, all met upon one common level, without the restraints and hair-splitting distinctions which a more advanced civilization is sure to impose. It may be that life is made more enjoyable as it is made to conform to the rules and regulations, which govern fashionable society, but its an open question. In the times of which I write, there were none in the settlement but would, upon notice, drop their work and travel miles to visit and nurse a sick neighbor, without even enquiring about his political, religious or social status: it was sufficient to know that he was in trouble and needed help. In all public gatherings, on festive and other occasions, everybody attended and participated, while none of the "I am better than thou" feeling was apparent in social intercourse. Ministers, lawyers and doctors were scarce, consequently people were generally healthy,

litigation was unthought of in the settlement of differences, and no person's religious opinions were a subject of criticism.

The Shanghai House upon completion, was immediately opened, under the supervision of Isaac Van Nostrand, who initiated his advent as landlord with a regular house-warming. A general invitation was extended, and people came from one to ninety miles. Dancing commenced, and continued for fifty successive hours. One lot of dancers would tire out, but another would be on hand to fill the vacancy. The "bar" below was in the full tide of successful operation, and the quantity of the "Pike" brand of whisky consumed would be fearful to contemplate in these latter days; but then, it only appeared to aggravate the intense desire of every man in the crowd to have a regular carnival of jollity, and they had it.

That season came George Wilson and family, and located at the Falls, and he was one the first to erect a frame dwelling house, which, with enlargments and improvements, is now occupied by Michael Conlan, Esq.

The first common school enterprise on Black River, was started by Spaulding at the Falls, during the month of February, 1847, by fitting up a school room in an addition to the old boarding house before mentioned. In dimensions, it was 9x15 feet in the clear, and was lighted by one window. C. R. Johnson, who was at the time, like Micawber, "waiting for something to turn up," was engaged to run the school at twelve dollars per month, and no perquisites, although allowed the privilege of boarding around among the fortunate parents of children attending school. The following named persons sent pupils: Jacob Spaulding, two; Hiram Yeatman, two; George Wilson, two; another Wilson, two; Henry Elmer, three; Isaac Van Nostrand, three; total, fourteen.

During the preceding fall, a wagon road had been cut through from Prairie du Chien to the Falls, and at that time there was no wagon road from La Crosse Prairie to the Falls, simply a trail for foot and horsemen.

During the spring and summer of 1847, sawed lumber sold in Du-buque and Galena markets at eight dollars per thousand feet, paid for partly in cash and partly in supplies. At the Falls but little money changed hands, business being almost exclusively on the credit system. The Shanghai House saloon would sometimes have a lively run of business for an entire day without a single drink being paid for in

money. Sometimes a drinking crowd of thirty or forty men would keep the bar-tender busy for an hour at a time, too busy, in fact, to charge the amount due for men calling for drinks, but as soon as a lull did occur, it not being possible for him to remember precisely who had stood the various treats, he equalized matters by charging each man in the room a dollar, at a venture, and was then ready for a new run upon his supplies.

Politically, the people were all Democrats, except perhaps a half-dozen Whigs, among whom were C. R. Johnson, L. S. Avery and James MacLaughlin.

One day in March, 1847, in the bar-room of the Shanghai House, there was a crowd of some fifteen or twenty persons, and during an interval between drinks, W. T. Price, in view of the fact of the material progress and advanced stage of civilization to which the people of the Falls had attained, offered a resolution to the effect that the services of some kind of a preacher were imperatively demanded. The idea was favorably received, but what particular denomination should have the preference was a question not so easily determined, and elicited considerable discussion; but after a drink all around the matter was submitted to a vote, and resulted in favor of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Price then, as ever since has been the case, insisted that what little religion there was outside the Methodist church was not sufficient to give a soul much of an outfit for the great Hereafter. During the following summer in response to an application for a minister, founded on the proceedings and vote above mentioned, the Rev. R. R. Wood was sent to the Falls as a stationed preacher. The elder soon came to the conclusion that the people around him needed regeneration badly, and zealously set himself at work to effect a reformation, but he had unusual difficulties to contend against in his praiseworthy undertaking. For instance, he would sometimes have (as it would appear to him) an encouraging season of labor with some one of the young men around, and at its close the elder would be astonished by a hearty slap on the shoulder from the seriously disposed subject, accompanied with an urgent invitation to take "something," or, while holding divine service in the dining room of the Shanghai House, on a Sabbath morn, he was frequently obliged to send into the adjoining saloon and cause a game of twenty deck poker to be interrupted, in order that one of the demoralized players might go into the meeting and start a tune for the singers; the player would readily consent, but immediately afterwards would return to the bar-room

and resume his game, congratulating himself in the meantime in his ability to serve God and mammon effectually the same forenoon. The elder, however, was well kept, and if he did not succeed remarkably well in organizing a church during his stay on the river, he could not complain of any want of material comforts, or of any wilful disrespect to his calling as a minister. Ever since the advent of Mr. Wood there has been a regular stationed minister of that denomination at the Falls, and being the first organized, it has always been the leading church of the village to the present time, and it is generally presided over by as able clergymen as are found in the conference district to which it is attached.

The June rise of the water in Black River of 1847, was the highest known to the settlers, being some twenty-four feet above low water mark. The large saw mill of Spaulding's was carried away from its rocky foundation, and the wreck floated in pieces down the river with all the stock of logs intended for the summer's use. The Falls was thus left without a mill, the small mill on Town Creek having some time before been taken down. But immediate preparations were made to erect a new and larger mill upon the same site, and which was completed the following year by Thomas Patterson, the contractor, now deceased, but in early times was well known as a member of the lower falls mill firm of Patterson & Brockway.

The year 1847 closed without further noteworthy changes at the Falls. Less than a dozen of the adult residents of the village at that time are now living, and those are easily named, viz. Jacob Spaulding, W. T. Price, C. R. Johnson, Hiram Yeatman, Joseph and Alonzo Stickney, Isaac Van Nostrand and wife and Joseph Claneey and wife. Of the above named, Amos Elliott came on the river and located at the Falls in August, 1845. By trade a carpenter and joiner, he followed the business one season after his arrival, then engaged in lumbering operations, and has so been engaged as logger and mill owner to the present date, doing for a large portion of the time an extensive and profitable business.

During the year in question the first government surveys of the Black River country were commenced, the first contract being for the "running out" of township lines, the territory about the Falls not being fully surveyed and in market until the latter part of 1849.

During the years 1848 and 1849, the village received but few additions to its population, and but little increase in its business.

In 1828, James M. Garrett, afterwards a well known lumberman



located at the Falls, and his firm of Curts & Garrett was well and extensively known until its dissolution in 1855.

During the year 1849, a state road was surveyed through from Prairie du Chien to Hudson, being the first legal highway laid out in this part of the state. In that connection there is a tradition, that the commissioners caused a mile post to be driven into the ground whenever their gallon jug of brandy failed to give down, (they had it along by the barrel) and so uniform were their potations in frequency and quantity, that it is said that the distance between an two posts so stuck, between the points above named, did not in any instance vary more than a rod from a true mile! Jacob Spaulding, was the surveyor accompanying the commissioners, is yet living, and if closely questioned may add some interesting details of that survey, as well as confirm the above tradition, perhaps.

During the year the lands about the Falls came into market, and Andrew Wood took out a pre-emption, and within a week after had secured a United States patent for the quarter section of land covering the water power and all the improvements at the Falls. His reason for such course was that Spaulding had failed to pay him and his brother for the property as agreed. The fact was, that two out of the installments of the lumber due the Woods were received and used by them, while the last installment was run and delivered to them, but before they could dispose of it the creditors of the old firm of Woods & Spaulding, siezed the lumber and sold it to satisfy their claims which the Woods had agreed to pay, as Spaulding states it. When Spaulding heard of the pre-emption and entry of Andrew Wood, he immediately started for Milwaukee, and by process out of the United States Court, had Wood arrested for perjury in making his pre-emption claim. The case was tried in the spring of 1850, but Wood's wife being present in court, aroused the sympathy of the jury, it is said, and Wood was acquitted. Then were commenced suits and counter suits between Wood and Spaulding, with the latter in possession of the property. Wood was worried out, and sold his claim to other parties, who commenced anew, but after about fifteen years of litigation the matter was compromised in such manner that a title could be obtained for village property for the first time. Spaulding's bonds for deeds were all the title that could be had until then, and they were not considered good enough to warrant the expenditure of much money in improvements, consequently the village languished along without much increase in wealth and population until 1865.

During Spaulding's absence from home, in the spring of 1850, Andrew Wood, acting under the advice of counsel, arrived at the Falls and announced himself in possession, and to satisfy himself that he was actually master of the situation, hired a man and set him to chopping on the present site of Wascville. But Spaulding's return changed the aspect of affairs at once. Meeting Wood on the street, he demanded to know what he meant by claiming to be possessor. Looking up into Spaulding's face, (for he was a small man) he answered, rather impudently, that "he didn't hold himself accountable to him (Spaulding) for his action in taking actual possession of his own property." The answer was met by Spaulding with a blow straight from the shoulder, which sent Wood to the cart—first knock-down and blood for Spaulding; however, the result of the encounter was the disappearance of Wood from the river, to which he has never returned.

The people of the Falls, after strenuous efforts for the establishment of a judiciary, finally succeeded in inducing an innocent and well meaning citizen to accept the office of justice of the peace. One of the first criminal cases calling for the exercise of his legal qualifications, was upon the arrest of a man named Jones, charged with rape, by his brother-in-law, complainant and defendant having married sisters, and at the time the two families were living together in a house this side of the "Mound," east of the Falls; the wife of the complainant was the subject of the wrong. The trial before the justice (no examination) attracted considerable attention. Spaulding & Bruce appeared as attorneys for prosecution, while Martin Grover conducted the defense. It was proven beyond question that Jones had committed the offense as charged, and worse than that, it was equally well established by proof that the offense had been repeated time and time again. The charge against Jones being so clearly proven, and his appearance and conduct at the trial not indicating any particular penitence, the judgment of the court was: "That the defendant should execute to the complainant a bond in the penal sum of one thousand dollars, with sureties to be approved by the court, conditioned that he wouldn't do so any more." The bond was executed and delivered, the complainant was satisfied, the defendant discharged, the law vindicated, and the people dispersed to their homes, more than ever satisfied that "the way of the transgressor is hard."

During the summer of 1850 a parsonage was erected of logs, for the use of the stationed preacher of the M. E. Church, and mainly through the efforts of W. T. Price, and which was made to answer the

purpose of a residence and church building for several years. It was located near the present site of Seifert's brick blacksmith shop, on Main street.

During the spring of the same year, a post office was established at the Falls, with W. W. Bennett for postmaster. It was kept by him at the present residence of Albert Tuttle, Esq., which was the first dwelling house in the village ornamented with a coat of paint. United States postage on a letter at that time was twenty-five cents, newspaper postage in proportion.

Bennett was of a speculative turn of mind, and disposed to get a living without much manual labor, and was rather illiterate, but it was said of him that after he left the River in 1853, by a lucky strike in real estate near Saint Louis, Missouri, he became wealthy. Before he left the Falls, however, he made a very pretty speculation by securing at government price the forty acre tract of land upon which was afterwards surveyed and established the village plat known as "Price & Rublee's," on the upper table land, west of the business portion of the main village, and now covered with the residences and improvements of most of the business people of the place, including the Universalist and Methodist church buildings, as well as the elegant and expensive school building, erected in 1870.

At the fall election of 1850, W. T. Price was elected as the Democratic member of Assembly from Crawford County.

With the exception of one term of school, in charge of a daughter of John Coleman, (a well known citizen of early times, since deceased) there had been no school facilities at the Falls, since the first school before mentioned, in the winters of 1846-7. On his recovery from disease contracted in Mexico during the Mexican war. C. R. Johnson returned to the Falls, and was engaged, and taught three terms in succession, commencing the first in a dilapidated old log building in the lower part of the village, on the bank of the river, and ending in a new frame school house, erected on the present site of the carriage manufactory of S. A. Wilcox, Esq., which served the purpose of school house and church, as well as for most gatherings of a public character, until another and better one took its place.

During the year 1854, the evils of intemperance began to attract attention, and lectures upon the subject were not unfrequent at the school house. It is probable that quite a number of the readers of this sketch of the Falls and a portion of its people, may recollect the incident about to be mentioned, but to the majority it will be new.

The Rev. Mr. Springer, a Methodist clergyman of considerable ability as a lecturer, was announced to speak on a given evening upon the subject of temperance, at the school house, and a crowded audience greeted the reverend speaker, who soon had it well in hand, for he had been there, and knew how it was himself, and in a measure spoke from actual experience. Among his hearers, and apparently somewhat affected by the earnest appeals of the eloquent lecturer to those addicted to the use of alcoholic drinks as a beverage, was one Reuben Rork, the very chief whisky drinking reprobate of the Falls, in those days, and it was a fearful reputation to have, but Reuben well deserved it, yet he had a spice of dry humor in his composition that made him somewhat a favorite in mixed crowds. The eloquent divine, in the course of his address, made the following remarks: speaking of the heroic self denial required on the part of reformed drunkards to avoid, as well as to withstand temptation, he stated that "he himself upon even smelling of whisky, was siezed with almost an uncontrollable desire to take it." Such a remarkable coincidence with his own feeling and experience under similar circumstances, was more than Reuben could stand without instant endorsement of the sentiment. The speaker, therefore, had hardly completed the remark in question, before he was interrupted by Rork, who, in a stentorian, voice exclaimed: "'At's my fix too!" The man having a hair lip, he spoke with an effort, as such men generally do, apparently from the pit of the stomach, and all present well knowing that with Reuben the smell and taste of whiskey were simultaneous occurrences, his endorsement of the lecturer's weakness by the candid admission of his own in that direction, appeared so ludicrous, that a feeble snicker ended in a roar of laughter from all hands, and the good effect of the address was entirely destroyed.

During the fall of 1853, by virtue of the legislation for the purpose had the preceeding winter, Jackson County was organized for judicial and for all purposes, after the first of January, 1854, and by the legislation spoken of, the county site was located at the Falls, where it has since remained. The following named persons were elected and served as the first set of officers for the county: Treasurer, W. T. Price; Sheriff, L. S. Avery; Clerk of the Board, C. R. Johnson; Clerk of Circuit Court, C. R. Johnson; Register of Deeds, C. R. Johnson, District Attorney, no candidate, who, with their successors in office for the following nine or ten years, held their offices around the village where it best suited their convenience.

During the years 1853 and 1854, two hotel buildings were erected on Main street, on opposite corners; one by M. P. Bennett, (who, by the way, was up to and about that date the only physician in regular practice on Black River) which was first opened to the public by P. H. Howell, Esq. as landlord. It afterwards was purchased by I. S. Mason, and by him enlarged to about three times its original dimensions, and the house had the larger share of patronage for many years. Joseph Popham, the present proprietor, purchased the property of Mr. Mason in 1864, and has since kept it open as a public house, under the name of the Popham House. It is centrally and conveniently located for the business. The other and much larger hotel building in the village at the time, was some fifty feet front by sixty deep, was used some seven or eight years as a public house, the first occupant being F. J. Hill, (he's dead now) afterwards for some years it was used for a tenement house. Of late years it has been much improved, and the whole lower story is now occupied as a store room for the heavy stock of Bishop, Dresman & Conlan, grocers.

The first law firm established at the Falls was that of C. R. Johnson and W. T. Price, under the firm name of Johnson & Price. The law library of the firm at the commencement of business, consisted of one volume of Statutes of Wisconsin, and one volume of Swain's Treatise, being the most extensive collection of law books north of La Crosse at that date.

Dr. Van Herset, during the year, located at the Falls, and was a practicing physician in the neighborhood for some years, and until his death in 1859.

In 1855, George F. Haswell, a young lawyer, settled at the Falls, who afterwards gained some notoriety in connection with the forged "Bridge Creek Returns," in and about the gubernatorial election of 1856. He finally, in 1858, left the place, and a large majority of the people were glad to have him go.

Ledyard and Farnam, during the year in question, opened out the largest stock of goods ever brought to the Falls. E. S. Crossett, now of Clark county, was their managing agent.

During the year 1856, many of our prominent business men commenced operations at the Falls. S. W. Bowman, now of the firm of Bowman & Humbird, bankers, and proprietor of an extensive grocery store on Main street, in connection with Oliver Crossett, (since dead) opened a store on Water street. John Parsons and his brother, H. D.,

concluding that farming in the Trempeleau valley was not exactly their forte, opened a stock of goods on Water street, opposite and east of the present Gifford building, in a building now used for a tenement house, but then known as the "Emporium store building." John was finally induced to quit merchandizing, and an opportunity occurring to engage in the business of keeping a post office, he embraced it, and ever since, some dozen or more years, has been a postmaster by profession, with headquarters at the Falls. Several unsuccessful attempts have been made to rotate him out, and somebody else in, but the post office department have in every instance taken as true his solemn answer, that he was better calculated to hold the position than any other man at the Falls, and from present appearances it is probable that in the dim future the inquisitive searcher after curious epitaphs, will find inscribed upon a marble slab in the Black River Falls cemetery, this: "John Parsons, aged 100 years: who was for the last sixty-five years of his life postmaster: a good man, but he's dead now."

The same season James Barber and family found a home at the Falls, and went into trade of dry goods and groceries, and he has remained ever since, a justice of the peace a dozen or fifteen years standing, and his decisions have been sound, as a general thing. A genial and jovial old gentleman; may his shadow never grow less.

During the month of May, Carl C. Pope, of Vermont, a state noted for being the birth-place of many good men who didn't stay there, arrived at the Falls, and remained a season in the office of Johnson & Price, after that hung out his shingle as Attorney at Law. Soon after he was elected District Attorney, and re-elected. He has served two terms as a member of the lower branch of the legislature, and one term as state senator, is a lawyer of acknowledged ability and extensive practice.

During the first season of Pope's residence at the Falls, C. R. Johnson, by glowing descriptions of the sport and excitement attending a hunting trip in the wilderness west of the Falls, inveigled him into a consent to accompany the party in a four day's trip into the Pidgeon Creek country, and each one, besides his gun and ammunition, carried a blanket strapped to his back, with four days provisions packed inside. The weather being very warm (it was in August) and Pope being entirely unused to walking any distance, as the Vermont people all travel in one-horse wagons, the journey wore upon him fear-

fully. He lost fifteen pounds of flesh during his four days absence, and upon his return enquired if people ever repeated such trips. No living man has ever seen a gun in Pope's possession since.

At the fall election of 1856, W. T. Price was elected State Senator upon the Republican ticket, beating William H. Tucker, his Democratic opponent, some twelve hundred votes.

Peter Trudell, (a well known citizen,) and a man named Austin, were at the time in question, landlords of the Shanghai house. Trudell has ever since resided at the Falls, engaged in business, and is now in trade as a grocer, on Main street.

H. E. Prickett, now a prominent lawyer of Idaho Territory, was proprietor of a drug, book and stationary store on Water street.

R. D. Squires, now the popular caterer to the public taste, at the Donna Sana Restaurant on Water street, made his advent here in 1856.

Deacon A. J. Smith became known as a trader at the Falls during the year in question, and was a living illustration of the fact that oftentimes the spirit may be willing but the flesh is weak. The Deacon's flesh was weak, very weak, and its incomings and outgoings were such as necessitated his getting away from the Falls between two days, in order to avoid great personal inconveniences by reason of scandalous charges against his moral character.

During the month of May was issued the first copy of the "Jackson County Banner," being the first newspaper published at the Falls, Charles Stewart, editor and publisher. The paper is published at this date, under the name of the "Badger State Banner," by Cooper & Son. It has always been Republican politically, except that an independent streak will once in a while crop out in its management, causing it to withhold support of a Republican nominee for office, that it believes incompetent or unworthy the position. Stewart was succeeded by F. O. Brainard as editor and publisher, and he by Col. J. A. Watrous, one of the owners and editors of the "Fond du Lac Commonwealth" at this date, and Frank Cooper; they were succeeded by Frank Cooper and C. J. Cooper, under the firm name of Cooper & Son. C. J. Cooper leaving the firm to publish a paper in a neighboring county, another son, George, takes his place, and the firm name continues the same.

J. V. Wells, having located at the Falls in 1855, commenced business during the following year as dealer in tin and hardware, and has continued in the business ever since, and now keeps up the most ex-

tensive stock of goods in his line found in the village. Mr. Wells has been during his residence at the Falls, a prominent and public spirited citizen, advocating and contributing liberally toward all measures calculated to enhance the public good, and material interests of the village.

During the year, the friends of the M. E. Church erected a church building upon the upper table land before mentioned, which, with sundry alterations, enlargements and repairs, is yet used by that church as its place of worship. It is finished up in a neat, substantial manner, having comfortable pews, and the only pipe organ in town, which is of material assistance to the choir officiating there.

During the year, John H. Clapp and sons, Nathan, Oliver and Oscar F., settled at the Falls, all business men and now residents of the village, except Oliver, who during the past season sold out and removed to the grasshopper region. Then also came Julius Schur, who opened the first bakery at the Falls, but closing out that business, he has for the last twelve years been engaged in the grocery trade.

During the Fall of 1857 there came Ulrich Oderbaldz, brewer, who has furnished our beer drinkers with a favorite beverage ever since, and in the business has accumulated a very fair amount of "the root of all evil."

The same year James Robie, an M. D. of excellent reputation in his profession, settled at the Falls, and soon had a drug store in operation on Main street. Selling out in 1866, he removed to Missouri, but is a resident of the Falls again, with a large and lucrative practice on his hands.

During the year 1857, through the efforts of the Rev. Warren Bigelow, a Congregational clergyman, the small church building near and immediately east of the Presbyterian church building was erected. The reverend gentleman named occupied its pulpit for several years, then sold the house. It afterwards came into the possession of the Episcopalians, who occupied it for several years, but of late it has been used by the German and Norwegian churches as a place of worship.

During the year 1857, the county board decided to have a court house and jail erected upon the Price & Rublee village plat, at a cost of some seven thousand dollars. The contract was let to Wm. Van Hovseen, and when his contract was nearly completed, an incendiary fire in an hour or so reduced to ashes a building which was a credit to the county, and an ornament to the village.

During the year 1859, W. B. Porter arrived at the Falls, seeking a



location for trade, he soon opened out with a stock of drugs, etc., having purchased most of the stock of H. E. Prickett & Co., who retired from the business. Mr. Porter has remained in the trade ever since, having now one of the best finished store rooms in the Northwest, which is always well filled with the choicest goods in the market of the kind in which he deals.

During the month of February, 1860, the assignees of Albert Wood, (claimant of the business portion of the Falls property, as before mentioned) Messrs. Williamson, Knapp & Hungerford, compromised their claim with Jacob Spaulding, by which Spaulding secured all his improvements, and the larger share of the water power, besides a fair moiety of the land, the title of which had been litigated in the courts for ten years. The above named assignees had their share at once replatted in their name, and for the first time in the history of the village, a good paper title could be had to real estate.

Spaulding's share of the property, for a consideration, was deeded directly to his son, D. J. Spaulding, then a young man of some little business experience, in lumbering and farming, having had but very slender advantages for acquiring a scholarly education. Raised in fact in and about a public house at the Falls, when its society was the roughest, and when it would have been hard to tell who was the wickedest member of it, young Spaulding pursued the even tenor of his way, uncontaminated by the coarser vices of associates around him. As a mere youth he was regarded as an adept at the game of eucher, but the whisky that others played for passed him untouched, in those early times, when for men and boys not to drink formed a rare exception to the almost universal rule. Of an inquiring mind and retentive memory, he has, since eighteen years of age, so well improved his opportunities, that to-day, as a farmer theoretically and practically, he is the peer of the best in the country. As a lumberman, a quarter of a million or more dollars fairly acquired in the business attests his knowledge and executive ability in that direction. As a trader he ranks with the most successful; and as a designer and builder his improvements are scattered over the village, substantial, sometimes elegant, and always pleasing to the eye. As a citizen, there are none who can show a fairer record upon every question of public interest. The church has no more ardent or liberal supporter, and schools no stronger friend. Of an equable disposition, no ordinary provocation can ruffle his temper; genial to all, his warm friends include all his acquaintances.

During the month of March, following the settlement in question, occurred the incendiary fire, which in one night laid seven-eighths of the business portion of the town in ruins. Every building on the north side of Main street, both sides of Water street, and including all on the south side of Main street east of the grocery store of Bishop, Dresman & Conlan, were burned. It was a fearful blow to the business interests of the village, but on the part of nearly all the sufferers a disposition to rebuild was at once manifested. The new proprietors of the village plat took the occasion to have a new survey, as before mentioned, by which the streets were widened and straightened, as well as otherwise improving the plat by laying out new streets and alleys. As has been before mentioned, the want of a good title to village property, had prevented the erection of very valuable buildings and improvements, consequently the loss by the fire was not so great as otherwise it might have been.

The village at the time contained about eight hundred inhabitants, and for the reason stated, there had been but slight increase in population or business for several years preceding. But from the time of the fire, a new start was taken, with a new and better class of buildings and improvements. Both population and business increased as never before, so that at the time of the breaking out of the war of 1861, there were some twelve hundred people residing in the village, and the burnt district mostly rebuilt with substantial residences.

C. R. Johnson represented his district in the assembly of 1861.

At the time of the breaking out of the war, or as soon thereafter as there was a prospect of troops being accepted, enlistments commenced at the Falls. The first delegation of some ten or fifteen enlisted in Company I of the Fourth Wisconsin Volunteers. Infantry at first, it was subsequently turned into a cavalry regiment. The Hon. F. H. Allen, County Judge and Register of Deeds, is the only survivor at the Falls of the delegation in question. William Moore (formerly sheriff) during the month of August, was, more than any other one, instrumental in raising a full company of one hundred and eight men, of which he was commissioned Captain, and was afterwards mustered into service as Company G, Tenth Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers. L. D. Brewer was commissioned as First, and S. A. Wilcox Second Lieutenant. It was stated in the Milwaukee papers at the time Captain Moore arrived at Camp Washburn with his company, that it was one of the finest bodies of men seen at that point since the commencement of the war. Its record in the war was a good one. Captain

Moore, who had early in service established a reputation for soldierly qualifications, was treacherously killed in the month of July, 1862, by Guerrillas in Alabama, while on duty guarding a railroad. His body was forwarded home for burial. The order of A. F. & A. M., of which Captain Moore had been a prominent member, took charge of the funeral ceremonies, and the body was accompanied to its final resting place by nearly all the people of the village, who mourned the loss of one of their best and bravest citizens.

But few members of old Company G remain about the Falls—not over four or five. Among them is W. S. Darrow, Esq., who came home Sergeant Major of his regiment, and who has for about the last ten years run the county clerk's department at the court house, to the infinite satisfaction of everybody, but particularly of members of the several county boards needing assistance in knowledge of statute law, or in drafting resolutions.

Immediately after Captain Moore's company was ordered into camp, C. R. Johnson, assisted by several active friends, raised another company of eighty-eight men, and in October it was organized by the election of C. R. Johnson Captain and John Kittinger First, and Joseph Clancy Second Lieutenant. The company was ordered into camp at Fon du Lac the first of December 1871, and became Company I of the Fourteenth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers. The company have a clear, clean record of active and honorable service in the army of the Tennessee, from Shiloh to the capture of Mobile, including the siege of Vicksburg. Some seventeen veterans of the original eighty-eight members of the company returned at the close the war, and are as good citizens as they were soldiers.

The above named companies, G of the Tenth and I of the Fourteenth Regiment, were the only full ones raised at the Falls during the war, but they only represented a minority of the enlistments. Captain Walker and Lieutenant R. D. Squires, in 1864, left with some sixty men, and became a part of the Fifth Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers at its reorganization, and subsequently saw hard service under Grant, in his "On to Richmond." Lieutenant S. A. Wilcox, during the early part of 1864, recruited at the Falls some twenty-two men for the Thirty-seventh Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers, among them was Frank Cooper, the senior editor of the printing establishment before mentioned. Cooper's regiment was actively engaged in the army of the Potomac, around Petersburg and Richmond, during the closing scenes, prior to the surrender. Cooper

was wounded in one of the engagements there, and was breveted for meritorious conduct in face of the enemy.

P. Trudell, during the fall of 1864, raised forty men at the Falls, for Company II, Forty-eighth Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, of which Company he was elected First Lieutenant, and before his term of service expired was commissioned Captain. His regiment served on the plains, in garrison most of the time at a frontier fort.

The effects of the several drafts during the war were lightly felt at the Falls, owing to the fact that the quota assigned was in every instance filled by men willing to serve their country in the field, when their families could be left in comfortable circumstances, as was the case with all those enlisting at the Falls during the later-stages of the war, owing to the liberal bounties offered and paid.

The laws regulating drafts in the whole Sixth Congressional District in their practical application worked much hardship and injustice, and the congressman representing the district was urged to have the evil remedied, but without success. Finally Hon. W. T. Price took the matter in hand, visited Washington and interviewed President Lincoln on the subject matter complained of, and so successfully that the necessary orders were at once issued to remove the cause of complaint. Price was appointed the first internal revenue collector of the sixth collection district of the state, and in a couple or three years succeeded in sinking about five thousand dollars in discharge of the duties of the office. As a general thing, in these later days, federal officers don't make a losing matter of it, unless they are badly slandered.

During the winter and spring of 1862, the court house and jail of Jackson county were built, upon the first bench or table land going west from the river, up Main street. They were not structures that reflect much credit upon the county authorities that approved the plans and authorized the erection. The cost of the court house did not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars, while the jail, (called so through mere courtesy) made of pine plank bolted together, might have possibly cost three hundred dollars, an extravagant expenditure of the people's money, when we consider the peculiarities of the institution. Its accommodations have been so ridiculously insufficient that a large portion of the law breakers confined therein have absolutely refused to stay, generally leaving in the night-time, sometimes through the side of the building, sometimes lifting the door from its hinges, while now and then one goes out through the window; and of

late it has become fashionable to leave behind some doggeral rhymes addressed to the sheriff, and written in an ironical style, making light of the tenement they leave. Grand juries have presented it as a nuisance to be abated, but the saving of a few dollars apparently weighs more with our county boards than the additional security afforded by the prompt detection and safe keeping of criminals. The Falls people are not proud of the county buildings located here.

A two department school house was erected in 1859, capable of accommodating one hundred and eighty pupils. Another was built in 1862 with accommodations for seventy pupils, and both were creditable buildings, and answered the purposes for the time being.

During the year 1868 the Universalist church building was erected, and in the year following the Baptist, and during the year 1870 the Presbyterian church building was completed, and in 1872 the Catholic church building was occupied. In 1868, D. J. Spaulding erected a block of brick buildings on Water street, comprising three store rooms below and a hotel above, named the "Spaulding House," which was the leading establishment of the kind at the Falls until destroyed by fire in 1870. The stores below were occupied by D. J. Spaulding's extensive grocery establishment, Spaulding & Jones, dry goods, and A. S. Eaton & Co., hardware and stoves. The block cost about twenty-five thousand dollars, and was the first brick erection in the village.

During the month of December, 1868, the West Wisconsin Railway was completed to the Falls. To Judge Price (he was once elected county judge) belongs the credit, as much, at least, as any other man, of procuring the needed legislation, right of way and county aid necessary to secure the building of the road, and his active exertions were recognized by those interested electing him president of the corporation.

In 1869, Bump's, or the Masonic brick block, was erected on Main street, at an expense of some thirty thousand dollars. On the first floor were the store rooms of M. Bump, dry goods and groceries, W. B. Porter, drugs, groceries, boots and shoes, etc., and John Marsh, billiard saloon. On the second floor was Bump & Porter's Hall, capable of seating four hundred people, since partitioned off and used for other purposes, with several offices. On the third floor was the Masonic Hall, and still above that was a photograph gallery.

During the fore part of July, 1870, the Spaulding block was fired by an incendiary and burned to the ground. The block, however, was immediately rebuilt of brick, at an expense of thirty thousand

dollars, the hotel part being omitted in the new plan. The building is thirty two feet in height, one hundred and twenty feet frontage, by one hundred and ten feet deep, the lower story being divided up in three large store rooms, running back the entire width. D. J. Spaulding occupies the north third of the block from basement to roof as a store room for his immense stock of groceries, glass, earthen, stone and wooden ware, embracing all the finer varieties of goods in his line. His offices are in front of the upper story. The adjoining store south is that of the Jones Brothers, (of late Spaulding, Jones & Brother) who deal exclusively in dry goods, and is probably as extensive as any establishment of the kind in the seventh congressional district, outside of La Crosse. There are but few store rooms in the state more conveniently arranged, or more elaborately and richly finished and furnished than the one in question, and the customer must indeed be hard to please that cannot be suited from a stock of an average value of thirty thousand dollars. Second only to Jones Brothers' establishment, is that of A. Meinhold & Co., in the Masonic Block, on Main street. Its specialty is also dry goods, of which a heavy stock is always on exhibition, for sale at bottom prices, as the firm is as strong pecuniarily as any on the street. It pays cash for goods, and its customers have the advantage of discounts made to such dealers.

The foundry and machine shops of J. C. Hussey have been established some eight years, and, while having all the modern conveniences adapted to and required for the business, the proprietor is reaping the pecuniary reward which generally follows an established reputation for excellent work in any profession or business.

But a small portion of the water power at the Falls is utilized. It, however, drives D. J. Spaulding's extensive saw, shingle and lath mills, which are capable of manufacturing into lumber eight or ten million feet of logs per annum; a grist mill so extensive as to be able to grind all the surplus grain raised in the county; a sash and door factory in which are constantly employed some twelve or fifteen men; and in addition to the use he makes of the water power, steam is used in his extensive wagon and carriage factory and blacksmith shops.

At the general election in the fall of 1869, Judge Price was again elected to the state senate. After the Judge quit the practice of law, in 1859, he was somewhat extensively engaged in the staging business, but in the meantime was more or less engaged in lumbering. On the completion of the West Wisconsin Railway to Eau Claire, his contract for carrying the United States mail from the Falls to that point ex-

pired, since which time he has been almost exclusively engaged in lumbering operations of a large and profitable character. Of late, having purchased the north end of the town of Huxton, he apparently proposes to know something about farming. His early educational advantages, like D. J. Spaulding's, were not brilliant, and the examination of a class in latin for his special edification, at our school a short time since, called out a strong remonstrance against the professor's choice of recitations. He regarded the matter almost as a personal affront. But notwithstanding early deficiencies in the matter of education to be acquired in schools, his natural ability, force of character and indefatigable industry, coupled with an ever present determination to succeed, has always placed him in a prominent position in all his business, social and political relations; a ready debater he is always prepared to assign a plausible reason for any position he assumes, or for any belief or theory he sees fit to advocate; naturally of a positive temperament, his style has been of a "yea, yea," and "nay, nay," character, always acting upon the principle that if a man is right he can't be too radical. A friend can always rely upon him, but an enemy (men of this stamp always have some)—well, it's better not to have him for an enemy. As before stated, he has been prominently identified with all measures of a public character affecting the interest of his section. A temperance man, he is of course a radical and prohibitionist of the most ultra type, and for the last fifteen years he has labored in season and out of season to prevent the sale of strong drink being legalized at the Falls. His donations to the churches in the meantime cannot have been less than five thousand dollars. No man ever accused him of a dishonest act in his pecuniary transactions, while his verbal promise is generally relied upon as certain of fulfillment. Always popular at home, his county has never failed to back him in any election in which he was a candidate. He is not a member of any church, but many of his religious friends actually think that at the final winding up of all sublunary affairs, an exception will be made in his case, and "good works" done in the flesh will insure him a prominent position (he wouldn't accept any other) in a better world than this.

The Cole Brothers arrived and commenced business at the Falls in 1866. H. B. Cole, a physician and surgeon, in point of professional skill and ability, ranks with the first of his age in the state. J. W. and F. W. Cole are in the drug and jewelry business, under the firm name of J. W. Cole & Co., and take the lead in the line of their specialties. All three of them are white men.

In the fall of 1870, was completed the brick Union High School building, (so called) at an expense of about thirty thousand dollars. It is sixty-five feet front by eighty-five feet deep, three stories high above the basement, and being located on one of the most commanding situations in the village, and of imposing design, it is the first building in the village that attracts the eye of a stranger. It contains ten school rooms, 25x30, and a lecture hall in which three hundred persons can be comfortably seated. Heating apparatus, ventilation, and the acoustic properties of the several rooms are all that can be desired in that direction. Professor W. A. De La Matyr has the general charge of the institution, at a salary of \$1,750.00 per annum. He has an assistant and six subordinate teachers, whose salaries range from fifty to sixty-five dollars per month. It is not, perhaps, too much to say that there is not a better school building of its class, in the state or a better organized school, and while the fact may perhaps be that from our two thousand population, not over two hundred and fifty are habitual church goers, it is certainly a fact that our people at each annual meeting will vote eight thousand dollars school tax to support our school institutions, without a dissenting voice; and the investment has been a paying one, for owing to the advantages derived from it, over ordinary common schools, there is not to day a vacant tenement to be had at the Falls.

During the winter of 1870-1, the village authorities contracted for the Holly sytsem of water works, and since the completion of them, with Black River to look to for a supply of water, the village has been without doubt twice saved from destruction by fire; and with the works in good order it would seem almost impossible for more than one building within reach to be injured by fire at one time.

During the past season, Samuel Freeman, Esq., the popular landlord, has added to his extensive hotel establishment, the Black River House, a public hall so large that six hundred persons can be comfortably accommodated in it, being 90x40 feet in dimension, arched ceiling, and a permanent stage at the rear end.

The village was incorporated by act of the legislature, in 1866, the town supervisors being "ex-officio" village trustees, and since the organization of the village government, it is within bounds to allege that a better governed or more orderly community cannot be found on any lumbering stream in the state, or where there is less crime committed by the same number of people.—C. R. J.



# Business Directory.

BLACK RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN.

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## Official.

GEO. C. PERRY, Sheriff.  
J. S. McNAB, Clerk Circuit Court.  
W. S. DARROW, County Clerk.  
OLIVER O'HEARN, Treasurer.  
F. H. ALLEN, Register of Deeds.  
C. R. JOHNSON, District Attorney.  
T. P. MARSH, School Superintendent.  
GEORGE M. ADAMS, Surveyor.  
R. BUNN, Circuit Judge.  
F. H. ALLEN, County Judge.

## VILLAGE OFFICERS.

S. W. BOWMAN, President.  
H. A. BRIGHT, } Trustees.  
ABEL CHENEY, }  
R. D. SQUIRES, Marshal.  
T. F. OSTRANDER, Clerk.

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## Professional Men.

### ATTORNEYS.

C. R. Johnson.                      James Darrow.                      C. C. Pope.

### PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

H. B. Cole.                      James Robie.                      S. F. S. Wason.  
F. Werner.                      H. R. Curtiss.

**Bankers.**

Bowman &amp; Humbird.

**Printing House.**

Badger State Banner Publishing House.

**Hotels.**

Jones House.

Black River House.

Popham House.

Falls House.

Anderson House

Albion House.

**Union High School.**

W. A. DE LA MATYR, Professor.

Miss Martha Burt, Assistant.

Miss Mary Rait, Grammar Department.

M. J. Burk, Second Intermediate Department.

Frank De La Matyr, First Intermediate Department.

Miss Nettie Schildt, First Primary Department.

Miss Nellie Gibbs, Second Primary Department.

Miss Lizzie Darnall,

Miss Annie Darling,

Miss Lavinia Wright,

Miss Amanda Wright,

} A. B. C. Division.

**Churches.**

Methodist Episcopal, E. E. Clough, Pastor, Johnson street.

Presbyterian, D. B. Jackson, Pastor, Main street.

Baptist, Main Street.

Universalist, Main Street.

Norwegian Lutheran, Main Street.

Catholic, Mason street.

**Fire Department.**

F. W. Cole, Foreman,

J. G. Maddocks, First Assistant,

Ira Bowman, Second Assistant.

N. M. Clapp, Sec'y and Treasurer.

} Albion Hose Co., No. 1.

## Justices of the Peace.

James Barber.

John Parsons.

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## Secret Societies, etc.

Black River Lodge No. 74, F. A. M., W. S. Darrow, W. M. ; O. F. Clapp, Secretary.

Black River Chapter No. 41, W. S. Darrow, H. P., F. H. Allen, Sec.  
Albion Lodge, No. 134, I. O. O. F., George C. Perry, N. G., T. F. Ostrander, Secretary.

Victoria Lodge, Rebekah, I. O. O. F., George C. Perry, N. G., Mrs. F. H. Allen, R. S.

Independent Lodge, No. 149, I. O. G. T., G. O. Weller, W. C. T. T. H. Phillips, W. R. S.

Village Library, in Clapp's Book Store, O. F. Clapp, Librarian.

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## General Business Directory.

ALLEN, F. H., County Judge, Court House.

Amunson, H., Shoemaker, Water street.

Allen, J. H., Livery and Sale Stable, cor. Brainerd and Mason steets.

Avery, L. S., Dealer in Furniture, Main street.

Anderson, Martin, Wood Carver.

Anderson, A., Proprietor Anderson House, First street.

Abbott, Royal, Carpenter and Joiner.

BOWMAN & HUMBIRD, Bankers, Mainstreet.

BRADNER, WILLIAM, Meat Market, Main street.

Bowman, S. W., Dealer in Groceries and Provisions, Main street.

Baillet, G. W., Dealer in Cloths, Clothing, Furnishing Goods, Boots and Shoes, Hats and Caps, etc., Main street.

Barber, James, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Crockery, Boots and Shoes, etc., Main street.

Bowman, George M., Lumberman.

Blake, S. D, Deputy County Treasurer.

Batcheller, N. A, at Planing Mill.

Breen, Walter, Blacksmith.

Bowman, Ira, Under Sheriff.

Brown, T. F., Carpenter and Joiner.

Babcock, Z. C., Carpenter and Joiner.

- Bright, H. A., Logger and Lumberman, United States Hotel, Second street.
- Brockway, E. L., Manufacturers of Lumber and Logger, Lower Falls.
- Birchard, H., Manufacturer of Lumber, and Logger.
- COOPER & SON, Publishers of "Badger State Banner," and Book and Job Printers, Corner Main and Second streets.
- COLE, J. W. & CO., Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Drugs, Books and Stationery, Watches, Clocks and Jewelry, Arms, Ammunition and Sporting Goods, Main street
- Clapp, M. M., Dealer in Boots and Shoes, Main street.
- Cheney, E. D., Express Agent, Main street.
- Cobb, Mrs. P. N., Dressmaker.
- Curtiss, Dr. H. R., Occulist and Aurist.
- Cuber, A. L., Harness and Saddles, "Banner" Block.
- Clapp, Oscar F., Bookseller, Stationer and News Dealer, Fancy Goods and Musical Instruments, first door east of Cole's Drug Store.
- Crosby, J. P., Carpenter and Joiner, Third Street.
- Campbell, James, Painter.
- Cutts H. L., Machinist, Main street.
- Clapp, J. H., Proprietor Albion House, Main street.
- Cheney, Abel, Logger and Lumberman.
- Clapp, J. H., Printer, "Banner" office.
- DARROW, JAMES, Insurance Agent and Attorney, office over Cole's Drug Store.
- Dimmick, J. C., Dealer in Flour, Feed and Groceries, Main street.
- Drennen, Conlan & Co., Lumbermen's Supplies store, Main street.
- Dean, G. C., Painter.
- Doud, J. O., Cooper, Second street.
- Darling, Isaac E., Wagon Maker.
- Dyer, J. A., Miller and Millwright,
- ELMORE & SON, Dealers in Agricultural Implements, Corner Main and Second streets.
- Erdman, C., Meat Market, Main street.
- Elliott, Amos, Lumberman.
- Edmonds, John, Miller.
- Emerson, Thomas, Beer Hall, First street.
- FREEMAN, S., Proprietor Black River House, Second street.
- GATCHELL, A. S., Boot and Shoe Dealer, Water street.
- Gebhardt, Fred., Proprietor Falls House.

Greenly, H. B., Jobber in Meats, Main street.

HUSSEY, J. C., Foundry and Machine Shops, Mason street

Hendricks, W. W., Barber, Main street.

Herrick, S. S., Wagon Maker.

Herrick & Dean, Trout Culturers.

Hill, C., Shoemaker, Water street.

Hanson, K., Merchant Tailor, Water street.

Heath, J., Mason.

Hall, J. D., Mason, corner Second and Brainerd streets.

ICE, JAMES, Lumberman and Merchant.

JOHNSON, C. R., Lawyer, Office over Bank.

JONES, E. O., Proprietor Jones House, corner Brainerd and First streets. General Agent of the Bodine Manufacturing Company.

Johnson, J. A., Feed Store, Main street.

Jackson, E. F., Ticket Agent, Depot W. W. R. R.

Jones, W. C., Superintendent of D. J. Spaulding's Grocery Store.

Johnson, E. D., Miller.

Johnson, Peter, Carpenter.

Jones, Louis, Clerk, Spaulding's Store.

Jeru, Barney, Tinner, with J. V. Wells.

KENYON, J. G. Teamster.

LE CLAIR & GWIN, Hardware, Main street.

Le Clair, E. E., with W. T. Price.

Lyons, H. F., Barber, Water street.

Landon, S. H., Carriage Maker, with Spaulding.

Larson, Ivers, Carpenter.

Laib, H. E., Gunsmith, Mason street.

Livings, F., Well-Digger.

MILLS, H. B., Lumberman and Merchant, Millston.

Miles, Miss Delia, Dressmaker, Main street.

Murray, W. T., Logger, at Spaulding's store.

Meinhold, A. & Co., Dry Goods, Main street.

Monish, George H., Mason, Water street.

Moore, W. P., Sash and Door Maker, at Planing Mill.

Marsh, John, Billiard Hall, Main street.

Middleditch, M., Miller, Star Flouring Mills.

Maddocks, J. G., Drayman, Third street.

Myer, John, Saloon and Billiard Hall, Main street.

Moldenhaur, William, Blacksmith.

NICHOLS, W. B., Saddle and Harness Maker, Main street.

O'Hearn, W. R., Book-keeper, with D. J. Spaulding.

Ostrander, T. F., Carriage and Blacksmith Shop, corner Brainerd and Mason streets.

Oderbolz, U., Brewer, Third street.

PRICE, WM. T., Dealer in Saw Logs and Railroad Cross Ties, Second street.

PARSONS, JOHN, P. M., Justice of the Peace, and Insurance Agent, Main street.

POPE, CARL C., Attorney at Law, Main street.

Parsons, E. W., Assistant Postmaster, Main street.

Popham, J., Proprietor Popham House, Main street.

Peterson, Nels, Machinist and Mason, with Hussey.

Postweiler, Jacob, Furniture Dealer, Water street.

Porter, W. B., Drugs, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, Main street.

Preston, James, Boarding House, Third street.

Pollok, John, Billiard and Beer Hall, Water street.

Perkins, S. H., Book-keeper, with Spaulding, Jones & Bro.

Pope, R. G., Dealer in Agricultural Implements, Main street.

Pratt, Ed., Superintendent for W. T. Price.

REITZ, Fred., Tailor, Water street.

Roddy, P., Grocer, Water street.

Richardson, George, Mississippi River Pilot, Water street.

SPAULDING, D. J., Logs, Lumber, Flour, Feed, Grain, Groceries, etc., Water street.

SLATER, E. P., Portrait and Landscape Photographer, first door north of Post Office. Portraits in Oil, India Ink, Water Colors, Crayon, etc.

Spaulding, S. R. & E. Y., Dealers in Dry Goods and Notions, three doors above the Post Office.

Spaulding, Jones & Brother, Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Clothing, Boots and Shoes, etc., Water street.

Sharpless, S. G., Groceries and Confectionery, Main street.

Seifert, August, Blacksmith, Main street.

Spaulding, Jacob, Real Estate Agent, Spaulding's Block.

Stebbins, Mrs. M. F., Millinery and Dressmaking, Main street.

Schnur, Julius, Dealer in Groceries, Provisions, Boots and Shoes, Main street.

Sawyer, A. E., Lumberman, Mason street.

Seeley, G. W., Shoemaker.

Squires, R. D., Restaurant and First Class Eating House, Water st.

Schenck, C. K., Foreman, D. J. Spaulding's Blacksmith Shop.

Schollenberger, Jacob, Cabinet Maker.

Schriber, William, Blacksmith.

Specht, S. John, Saloon Keeper, Water street.

Sheldon, E. L., Teamster.

Simpson, Fred., Surveyor.

Smith, J. B., Mill Owner.

THOMPSON & WYLIE, Bakers and Fancy Grocers, Main street.

Trudell, Peter, Groceries and Provisions, Main street.

Taft, C. L., Carpenter and Joiner.

Taylor, V. E., Miller with D. J. Spaulding.

Taylor, J. G., with D. J. Spaulding.

Thompson, W. T., Mill Owner, Squaw Creek Mills.

WELLS, J. V., Dealer in Hardware, corner Mason and Main streets.

Werner, Dr. F., Dealer in Drugs and Medicines, Fancy Goods, etc.,  
Main street.

Williams & Olson, Blacksmiths and Wagon Makers, Main street.

Wehinger, A., Dry Goods, Main street.

Weller, Gad, Carriage Maker.

Wason, C. C., Livery, Corner Second and Brainerd streets.

Weeks, Robert, House Painter.

Weeks, L., Carpenter.

Wickham, E. S., Millwright.

Winter, Joseph, Millwright.

YODER, J. W., Carpenter.

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## Life in a Country Printing Office.

MISS MIRANDA DOBBS, ONE OF THE PROPRIETORS OF THE "ENTERPRISE," CONCLUDES THAT THEIR FIRST FOURTH OF JULY IN GREENVILLE SHOULD BE CELEBRATED BY THE CITIZENS. IN THIS ARTICLE SHE DESCRIBES THE CELEBRATION.



HAVING concluded that our first fourth of July in Greenville ought to be celebrated, and more, should be celebrated, I began to agitate the matter among the people, who informed me that it would be impossible to have a celebration in Greenville. It had been tried several times, and without the success of getting ten persons together. But I was, confident that such a thing could be effected, if we went to work in the right way, and I was only the more determined that Greenville should celebrate. The first thing that I did was to issue five hundred circulars, headed "A Call," demanding the attendance of the people upon a meeting to take the matter into consideration. Hop told me in a brotherly way that I was "a plaguey fool," and would have my pains for my trouble, or my trouble for my pains, I don't know which. But I did not care for his talk. When the appointed evening came, I went to the hall, where the people were to meet, expecting to find it crowded; for I supposed all would come out for curiosity, if for nothing else; and when they were once together, I thought they would certainly make the necessary arrangements, and that my part of the work ended with the issue of the circulars. But to my surprise, I found only one lady and two men there, and the two men managed to get out and away while I was exchanging a salutation with the lady. The lady, Mrs. Irena, called after them, but a laugh was the only answer.

"I declare, it's too bad!" she exclaimed. "There is not a spark



of enterprise in the men of this place, take them all together. How I wish I was a man!"

She was young and very handsome, and as she drew up her graceful form in such a dignified manner, and flashed her dark eyes on an imaginary somebody, I came near echoing her wish.

"I will tell you what we will do," she went on. "We will conduct the meeting ourselves. We can make up the resolutions and appoint the committees as well as if there were a hundred here—yes, better, for if there were so large a number as that the meeting would break up with a quarrel."

She gave a light rippling laugh and continued.

"You can publish the proceedings in your paper, and the folks will never know but that we finally had a fair attendance here. You and I will be the committee on finance, and we will drum up some cash to help the thing on."

I entered into the spirit of the matter, and we two went to work. An hour later the resolutions were all taken down, and all the committees were appointed. I did not even let Hop or sister Chat know how slim the attendance had been, but passed the resolutions in for "copy," and the next day set to work upon some posters. Hop wanted to know who was to pay for so much printing, and I informed him that I would see to that part of the business myself. But what a time I had with those posters! The fonts of type were so small and few, and certain letters would run out, no matter how I worded the copy; and before I could get the thing completed I had to cut out some letters on the backs of some others, finding once or twice after I had got a letter cut, that the face letter was needed somewhere else. But perseverance is generally crowned with success, and my poster was not ill looking when it was finally finished. Our "devil," however, to whom I gave the task of running it off, spoiled about fifty sheets of paper, much to my chagrin. He run them very black, and placed them one upon another, and the whole pile stuck together as closely as though they had been pasted instead of inked.

After the resolutions had been published and the posters had been put up, Mrs. Irena and I went around with a paper to obtain subscriptions. We got names very easily, but were told in most places to "call again" for the amounts placed after them. The people all wished to see if we would succeed in getting enough money subscribed before they paid the subscriptions. As I had previously canvassed

the place for my paper, and had received more names with instructions to "call again" than dollars, and was still receiving repeated invitations to "call again," I felt a little concerned about this fourth-of-July subscription money. But I kept my fears to myself, determined not to dishearten Mrs. Irena, who often remarked in high glee that we were doing "wonderfully well."

We found that the amount subscribed, in case it was ever paid, would be sufficient to meet our expenses in getting up a celebration, and we set zealously to work in order to accomplish what we had begun. The great man of the place was Hon. John Smith, and we invited him to make a speech on the great occasion. He was insulted because a committee of men had not waited on him, and declared that he would not have anything to do with the celebration. We then visited two other men of lesser fame, and wrung from both a half promise to "say a few words." This was all we could do in the way of a speech, and half fearing that we would not have one after all, we let the matter rest there, and went on with other parts of our work. We had decided to have a dance in the evening, and it was necessary that a bower should be made and musicians engaged. We had a bower committee, but found almost at the last moment that said committee were to celebrate at Crossroads; and I may as well say here that we had to hire two men to build it on the morning of the fourth. We had two bands of musicians in town. The poorer one we chose for the day exercises, and the other for the evening, to prevent jealousy. But even here we got into trouble, as the reader will soon ascertain.

We had advertised to have a free dinner at the bower, and had won from a majority of the people a reluctant consent to furnish victuals for the occasion: but the committee on refreshments that we had appointed, met without our knowledge, and resolved to have no refreshments at all: consequently the victuals which were cooked for the free dinner were not called for.

Another trial awaited us. Just as we were beginning to think that harmony prevailed, it came out that the people had made up their minds to celebrate three different days. The fourth of July falling on Sunday, the American population chose Monday for the celebration; the Germans, whose respect for Sunday is not so great, declared that the actual fourth should be celebrated; and the Irish, for no other reason except their love of quarreling, came to the conclusion that Saturday was the proper day. This made a split. The Germans said that their money should not go to celebrate any day but the

actual fourth, the Irish would not give their money for any day but Saturday, and the Americans firmly adhered to Monday.

"Never mind," said Mrs. Irena. "The dance is the principal thing, and we can take up a collection to pay for the music, if we don't get what is subscribed."

The Irish got up a picnic on Saturday, and the Germans had a dance on Sunday night; then the men of both nationalities gathered on the streets with their hands in their breeches' pockets, to watch our progress on Monday. The man whom we had appointed to act as marshal was an Irishman, and he made only a pretense of acting. He wore a dirty, red sash, and rode a broken down horse; his marshalship consisting of nothing but the reining of his steed upon the sidewalk, where he sat delivering rude jokes concerning the celebration to the gaping crowd. It was not long before the street was filled with people, but there seemed to be no one to form the procession in order. The band drummed away in front of a saloon, and the children thronged the printing office with eager inquiries of when we should start. To make matters worse, a boat landed, and while she was wooding up, her passengers, a party of excursionists, marched up town to the variety store, where they bought out the whole stock of tin-whistles, mouth-organs and the like, after which they marched back to the boat to the most horrible din that can be imagined, followed by a crowd of whooping boys. This performance only served to increase the number of people clustered around the printing office which was near the boat-landing.

After the departure of the excursionists, the children became more noisy, and, seeing that no one else would take the lead, I told the youngsters to follow me; and I started on up the street with about a hundred of them in file behind me. The people seeing my perseverance, gave a loud "hurrah!" for the "Enterprise," the marshal swung into place, the band took the centre of the street, and on we went, followed by the crowd. If that procession was not a success in the matter of order, it certainly was in numbers and noise, for nearly every man, woman and child in the whole village and surrounding country were there; and I lead on, trying to appear unconcerned though in fact I felt decidedly out of place, and wished myself almost anywhere else.

On arriving at the grove, I found that a rude platform had been constructed, but it had no steps leading to it, and it was so high up that, to get on it, one must climb a small tree which formed the

support for one end of it. A half dozen men climbed up and invited me to follow. The invitation, of course, had to be declined.

I said that we had not been sure of having any speaker at all; but to our surprise we found all three of those who had been invited there, each with his manuscript, expecting to make the spread-eagle speech, and insulted because he was not the only one who had a speech to make. Of course, the two lesser lights were snuffed out by the Hon. John Smith, who stepped proudly before his audience, and began in a voice rivaling thunder: "Friends and fellow-citizens—Americans, it is you that I would address. Nay, I will go farther and say 'Yankees,' for only to the Yankees can the fourth of July be sacred and commemorate."

Here a loud hiss interrupted him. I looked around displeased, for I did not know but that a flock of geese had come down on us; but no, it was the crowd that was hissing.

"Hiss away," thundered Hon. John Smith, "I tell you the truth, and I am strong enough to drown all your hissing. Besides you have had your celebration—you foreigners, and we Yankees want ours. We did not interfere with you, neither should you interfere with us. I say the fourth of July is a day sacred and commemorate to Yankees only. How can those who were not born on the blood-stained soil of Revolutionary battle-fields feel enthusiasm on the fourth of July? I ask now?"

Here came a crash, followed by screams of terror and laughter mingled. The platform had given away and the Hon. John lay sprawling on the ground among his kicking companions.

"Too much Yankee enthusi-muzzy for a western platform to hold," some one bawled out, and another added: "Let's go home! There isn't three Yankees in the whole crowd. If the day is only for Yankees, what are we doing here?"

Here the band struck in to drown the noise, while the speakers were getting into an upright position. But the Hon. John was too much hurt or insulted to proceed, whereupon one of the lesser lights mounted a two-inch plank and tried to twinkle for the amusement of the audience. But his efforts to restore good feeling were a failure, from the fact that it is difficult to restore what has never existed. The other lesser light made a similar trial with no better success. The people began to wander about with anxious inquiries concerning the "free dinner" that had been advertised, and finding that no dinner, free or otherwise, was there, they expressed a desire to demolish that "lying newspaper."

While matters were in this unpleasant state, Mrs. Irena brought me the information that band number one, which we had engaged for the evening, had left for Crossroads, intending to play for some ball there. There was only one way to do: we must immediately engage the other band, or our bower-dance would be a failure. But to our surprise, the other band declined to play, because it had not been previously engaged. We had preferred band number one—its members knew it, and we could not make a bridge of their noses in that way and expect favors from them. I explained, and Mrs. Irena coaxed, but to no purpose. The promise of a double fee, however, mollified them, and they concluded to “accommodate” us.

The evening came, and I anxiously sought the bower, expecting some new trouble, but unable to guess what. A large crowd had assembled there—much too large for the accommodations offered by the bower, and said crowd was groping about in the darkness, owing to the fact that all the light which had been furnished for the occasion, consisted of what was given by two smoking lanterns. Still the people managed somehow to dance. But I am sorry to say that when I proceeded to take up a collection their sight was not so good, for the whole amount raised was only \$6.33 and two buttons. I had already got heartily sick of the whole affair, and was thinking of returning home, when the musicians threw down their instruments, declaring that it was midnight, and that they would play no longer. This raised a row. A portion of the men were well “set up” with liquor, and they denounced the dance as a swindle; but just who had swindled them they could not tell, unless it was the “Enterprise” folks. I informed them of the amount that the musicians had asked for their services, and that, as I had hired them, I would have them to pay; whereupon the crowd surrounded the band and demanded music, the musicians steadily refusing. The quarrel waxed loud; and, perfectly disgusted, I slipped away and sought my office. Here, I shut myself up, and estimated the cost of the celebration, finding that the “Enterprise” folks were out of pocket fifty dollars, besides the printing bill.

But it would not do for the outside world to know that the celebration was a failure; so I penned a lengthy article, praising everybody and everything, and giving a glowing description of that particular fourth of July at Greenville. Then I went to bed, firm in the resolve that, in the future, others should conduct all celebrations whatever they might be, and that never, never again would I belong to a committee on finance.

## The Friendship that Could not Die.

---

“ Mine is a friendship that cannot die !

I shall be your best friend alway ; ”

Spoken softly low,

Just a year ago,

Were the words I heard you say.

Did I doubt them ? No, not I.

“ Mine is a friendship that cannot die ! ”

And it had such a truthful ring,

I had staked the whole

Of my life and soul,

And of every precious thing,

That it could not be a lie.

“ Mine is a friendship that cannot die ! ”

But, alas ! it has not proved true ;

For my lips are white

With my woe to-night,

And the faith that reposed in you

Has despair in its wild cry.

“ Mine is a friendship that cannot die ! ”

Now, it never once seeks to know

If I grope in night,

Or am blessed with light ;

Nor to crush any thorns which grow ;

And I faintly question, “ why ? ”

This is the friendship that could not die !

But ah, me ! should I think it strange ?

Beat on, aching heart,

It is but the smart

Of a change in a world of change,

Where what lives, in death, must lie.—BELLA FRENCH.

## Gems of Thought.

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“Civility costs nothing, but buys everything.”

“The remedy for ‘hard times’ is patient industry. Let those who complain try it.”

“The discovery of what is true, and the practice of what is good, are the two most important objects of life.”

“Mankind are citizens of the earth, and bound both by moral and civil law, to preserve and take care of their lives and health.”

“Prosperity is a more refined and severe test of character than adversity, as one hour of summer sunshine produces greater corruption than the longest winter day.”

“A knowledge of science attained by mere reading, though infinitely better than ignorance, is a knowledge of a very different kind from that which arises from contact with fact.”

“Pretty bad under foot to-day,” said one citizen to another, as they met in the street. “Yes, but it’s fine overhead,” responded the other. “True enough,” said the first, “but then, very few are going that way.”

“A house without pictures is like a stem shorn of its fair flowers. If you would make a room look neat, cheerful and homelike, first, and above all else, rob it of its staring, naked walls, by covering them up with modest and refined pictures.”

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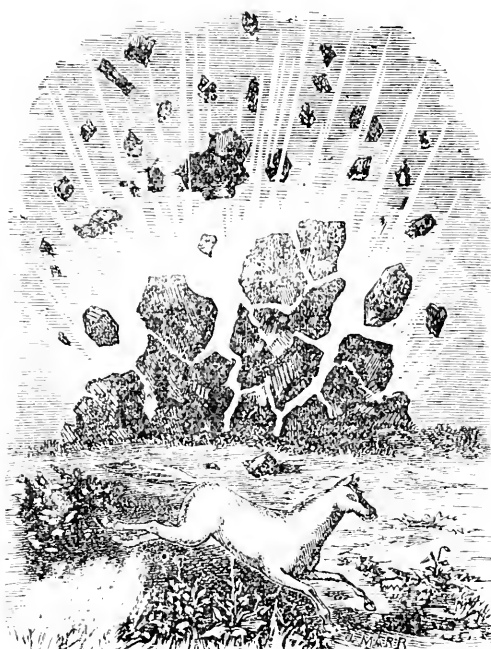
ERRATA.—On pages 177 and 182, read Bishop, Drennan & Conlon, for Bishop, Dresman & Conlan. On page 180, read Julius Schuur for Julius Schur, and on the same page read Ulrich Olderbolz for Ulrich Olderbaldz.

By some oversight, the names of O. E. Jones and wife seem to be omitted in the historical sketch. These worthy people were among the oldest settlers of Black River Falls, and endured many of the hardships and struggles which Col. C. R. Johnson so ably describes. They are, at present, the proprietors of the Jones House, and the editor of this work can testify that they furnish a very pleasant home for travelers.

## THE GREAT DEBATING SOCIETY.



VIEW NO. 1.



VIEW NO. 2.

## EXPLANATION.

The young folks of "our town" believing that they possessed great latent talents in the line of speechifying, resolved to organize a Debating Society for the purpose of developing those talents, without first taking into consideration what the effects might be.

In view number one we see the great Debating Society as it began. In view number two we have the great Debating Society as it ended.

A minister asked a little boy who had been converted, "Does not the devil tell you that you are not a Christian?" "Yes, sometimes." "Well, what do you say to him?" "I tell him," replied the boy with something of Luther's spirit, "that whether I am or not, it is none of his business."



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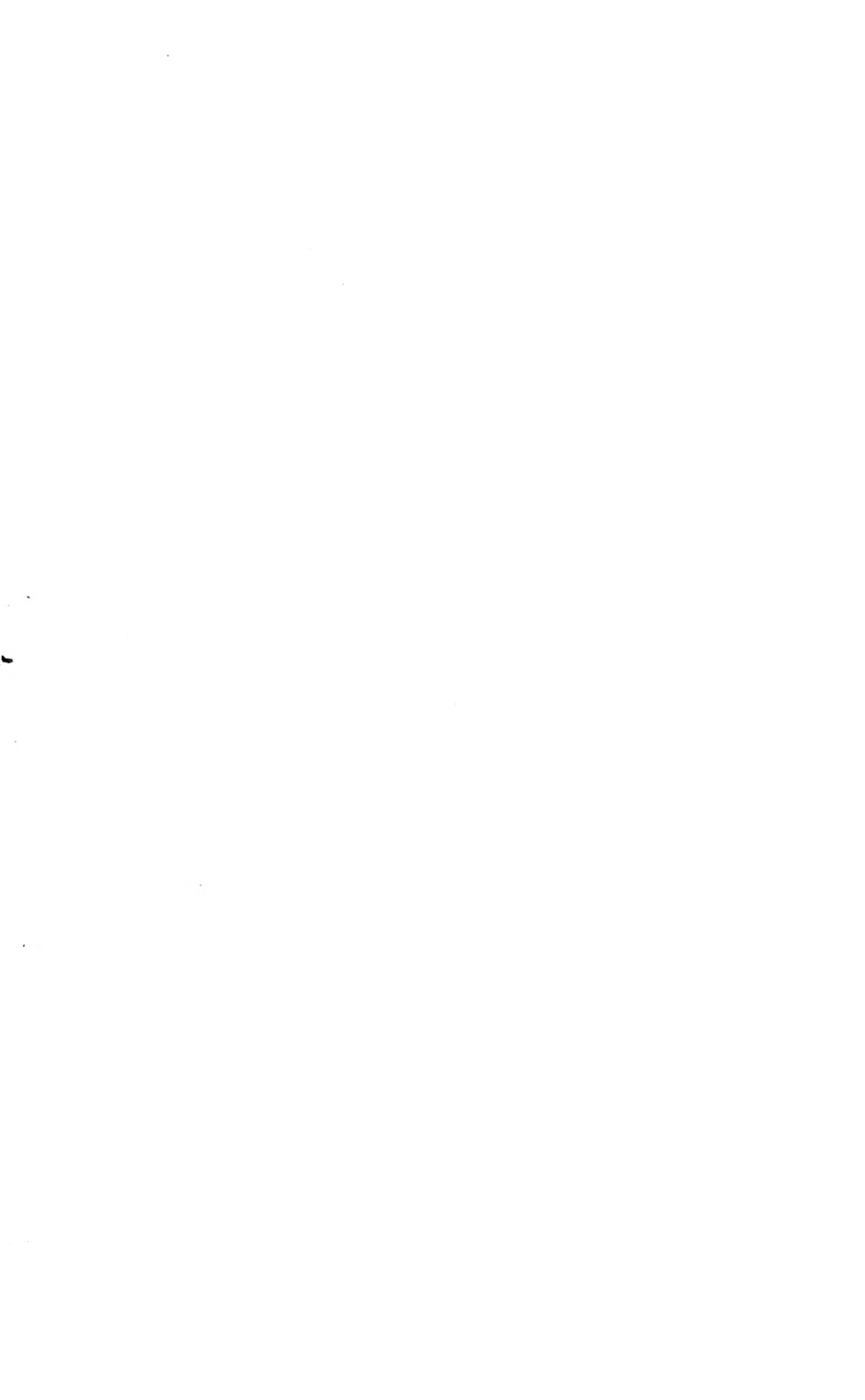
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